

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. No: To Be Assigned
Applicant: Koji SAKAI, et al.
Filed: March 26, 2004
Title: FOLDING MECHANISM AND ELECTRONIC APPARATUS USING THE SAME
TC/A.U.: To Be Assigned
Examiner: To Be Assigned
Confirmation No.: To Be Assigned
Docket No.: MAT-8524US

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application is requested to consider and make of record the references listed on the PTO 1449 (RP) submitted herewith. A copy of each of the listed references is also enclosed.

Although the information submitted herewith may be "material" to the Examiner's consideration of the subject application, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that such information is "prior art" as to the claimed invention.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

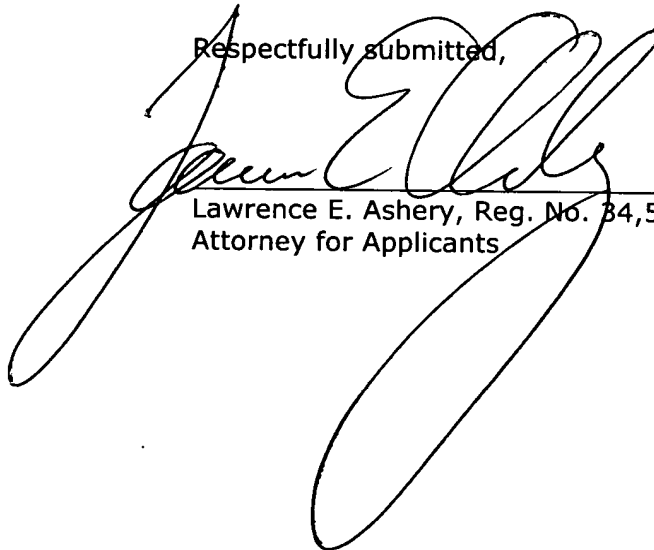
The following Japanese reference is not in the English language:

- 1) 2002-209000

Reference 1) includes an English language abstract and a "concise explanation" under 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(3) is also set forth in the specification.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the above-referenced application.

Respectfully submitted,


Lawrence E. Ashery, Reg. No. 34,515
Attorney for Applicants

LEA/dmw

Enclosures: PTO Form 1449
Copy of (1) Reference

Dated: March 26, 2004

P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
610-407-0700

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Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>	Complete if Known	
	Application Number	To Be Assigned
	Filing Date	March 26, 2004
	First Named Inventor	Koji SAKAI, et al.
	Art Unit	To Be Assigned
	Examiner Name	To Be Assigned
SHEET 1 of 1	Attorney Docket No.	MAT-8524US

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date (MM-DD-YYYY)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (If known)				
		JP 2002-209000 A (with English abstract)	07/26/2002	Matsushita Electric Ind Co Ltd	Entire Document	<input type="checkbox"/>
						<input type="checkbox"/>
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional).

² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.

³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard St.3).

⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the 1st page of the patent document.

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The collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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